Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-9.   (Canceled).

10.-12. (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring program execution in at least two interconnected microcomputers in a sensor circuit sensing at least one operating parameter of a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

generating, by one of the microcomputers in the sensor circuit, a request which is transmitted to the other microcomputer in the sensor circuit;

using, by the other of the microcomputers, prescribed input data to prompt the execution of a program in response to receipt of the request;

returning, by the other of the microcomputers, a response which is dependent on the input data to the one of the microcomputers;

comparing, in the one of the microcomputers, the request and the response with one another; ~~and~~

generating an error message if the request does not match the response;

one of setting or changing, within the other of the microcomputers, a respective flag in a flag register following the execution of program portions of

2

the program, and generating an error message if not all the flags have been set or changed following the execution of the program;

introducing a falsification, by the other of the microcomputers, in the flag register;

identifying, by the other of the microcomputers, the falsification as an error in the response provided to the one of the microcomputers; and

checking, by the one of the microcomputers, for the falsification.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the program is a copy of another program that performs a function of the other of the microcomputers.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for monitoring program execution in at least two interconnected microcomputers in a sensor circuit for motor vehicles, comprising the steps of:

generating, by one of the microcomputers, a request which is transmitted to the other microcomputer;

using, by the other of the microcomputers, prescribed input data to prompt the execution of a program in response to receipt of the request;

returning, by the other of the microcomputers, a response which is dependent on the input data to the one of the microcomputers;

comparing, in the one of the microcomputers, the request and the response with one another;

generating an error message if the request does not match the response;

introducing a falsification, by the other of the microcomputers, in the response;

identifying, by the other of the microcomputers, the falsification as an error in the response provided to the one of the microcomputers; and

checking, by the one of the microcomputers, for the falsification.

16.-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of counting errors, using an error counter in the one of the microcomputers, which have been detected for the other of the microcomputers; and

not changing the error counter for errors caused by the falsifications introduced by the other of the microcomputers in the response.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 13, further comprising the steps of counting errors using an error counter in the one of the microcomputers which have been detected for the other of the microcomputers; and

not changing the error counter for errors caused by the falsifications in the flag register by the other of the microcomputers.